

Manti LaSal National Forest

#2 Canyons Timber/Fuels Reduction

10 year project to treat approximately 36,067 acres of dense and decadent spruce stands. Of that acreage, 29,574 acres are proposed for mechanical treatment and 6,493 acres are proposed for prescribed burning treatments.

- Reduce fuel loading, decrease the probability of ignition, decrease the probability of large scale stand-replacing fire, and to improve fire management tactics in the event of wildfire.
- Remove slash from under the drip line of residual trees and treat slash by piling and burning in openings.
- Regenerate conifer stands to restore overall species composition, and maintain or increase aspen abundance in spruce/fir mixed conifer vegetation types.

Sawtooth National Forest – Grazing Exclosures



Sawtooth National Forest – Livestock Watering Improvements



U.S. Forest Service Key Watershed Contacts - Utah

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UTAH'S
WATERSHED
RESTORATION
INITIATIVE



UTAH DNR
NATURAL RESOURCES

NRCS
NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

UACD
Utah Association of Conservation Districts

EXTENSION
Utah State University

FSA
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Utah Department of
Agriculture
and Food

Utah DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY

Utah State School and Institutional
Trust Lands Administration

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Utah FOREST & WETLAND SERVICE

watershed.utah.gov

What is WRI?

- 14 year old State led partnership driven effort to improve high priority watersheds in Utah
- What ecosystem values do we focus on improving?
 - Watershed health and biological diversity
 - Water quality and yield
 - Opportunities for sustainable uses of natural resources



UWRI CORE-VALUES CONSIDERATIONS

WATER QUALITY AND YIELD FOR ALL USES

WATER QUALITY

Does the project have the potential to improve or protect water quality? Benefits to water quality would include reducing the risk of severe wildfire, reductions in pollutants, nutrient loading and or sediment loading. Higher scores should be given to projects within watersheds that supply drinking water to communities or include drinking water facilities. Watersheds immediately adjacent to perennial water bodies and riparian systems, exceeding TMDLs, or identified as impaired should also be awarded more points.	0 – 10
Maximum points possible for this section - 10	

WATER QUANTITY

Does the project have the potential to increase water quantity? Possible considerations may include: projects that show direct benefits to instream flows, expansion of hydric vegetation, are likely to turn intermittent channels to perennial, and /or increases in natural hydrologic storage capacity; changing grazing management, changes to the vegetation class, brush and/or weed management, soil modifications that can directly affect the water regime, etc.	0 – 10
Maximum points possible for this section - 10	



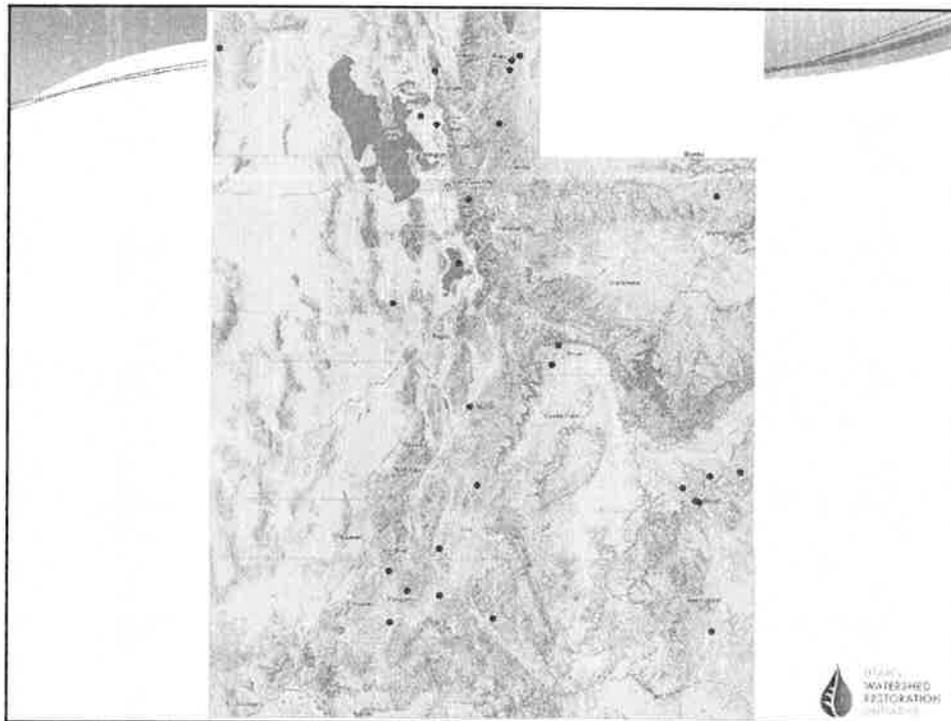
WRI FY19 Accomplishments

- 141 Completed projects
- 80 Different funding partners
 - 13:1 partner match ratio
- 199,613 acres completed
 - 77,060 acres fire rehabilitation
 - 122,553 acres proactive restoration
- 155 miles of stream and riparian areas treated



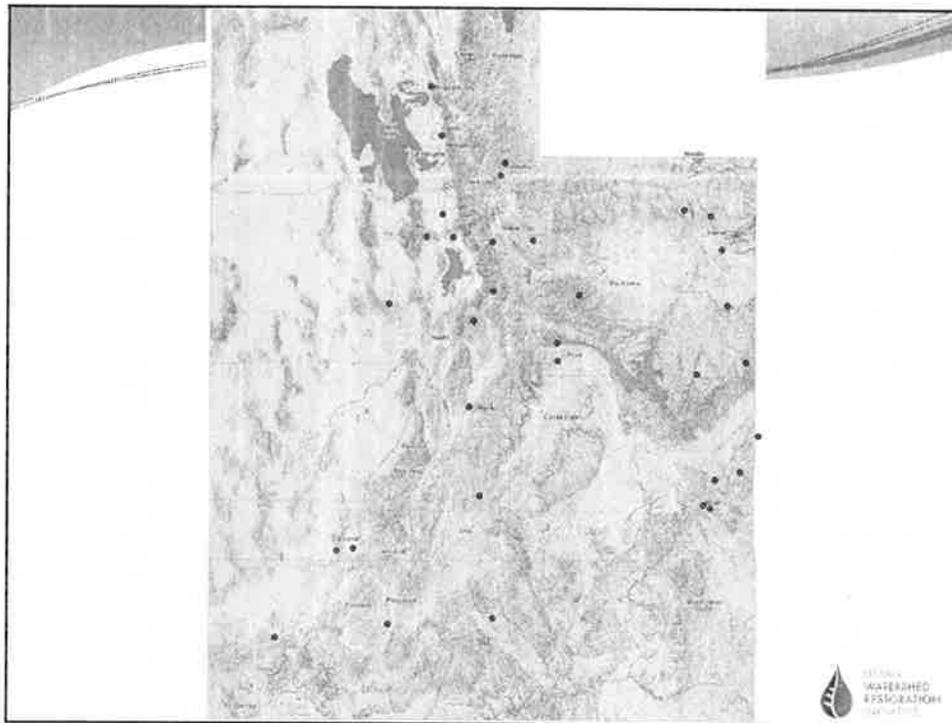
FY 19 WRI Riparian/Stream Projects

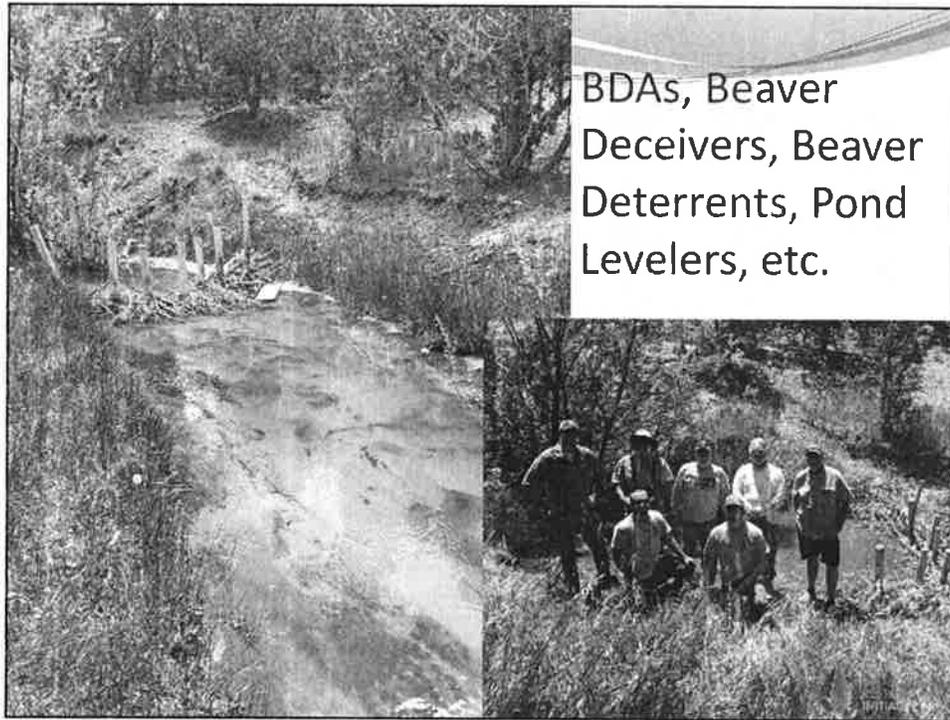
- 30+ Projects completed in FY19
 - Phragmites – Utah Lake, GSL, Upstream
 - Tamarisk–Russian Olive Removal
 - Colorado, Escalante, Dolores, Courthouse wash
 - In-stream/BDAs – Sevier, Price/Helper, Sheeprocks
 - No Livestock Watering/Riparian Protection Funding in FY19
- \$1.2 million DNR spent, \$5.3 million partner funds spent - \$767,000 In-Kind
- 155+ river/stream/riparian miles enhanced



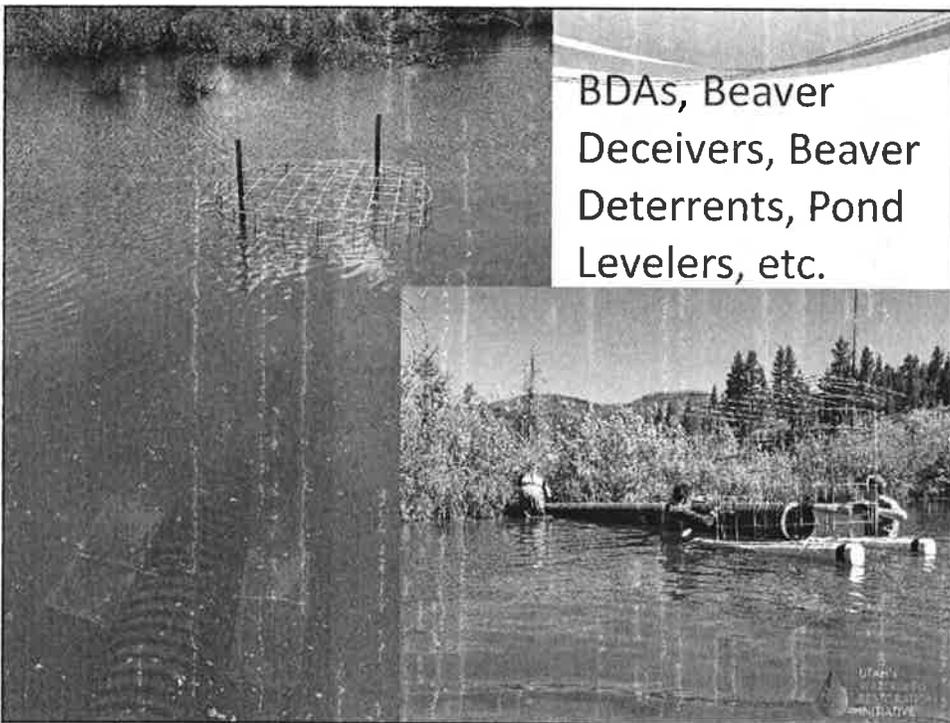
FY 20 WRI Riparian/Stream Projects

- 33 Projects Funded for FY 20
 - Phragmites – Utah Lake, GSL, Upstream
 - Tamarisk-Russian Olive, PJ Removal - Colorado, Escalante, Dolores, White, Lower Beaver, Mill/Pack
 - In-stream/BDAs – Bitter, Willow, Main, Pinto, Brush, Miller, Echo, Fish creeks; Jordan, Sevier, Weber, Price rivers; Sheeprocks,
 - Post-Fire – Nebo creek, Lower Diamond Fork river
- \$8.1 million in funding (\$5 million through WRI)
- \$1.1 million in-kind
- 130+ river/stream/riparian miles treated/planned for treatment

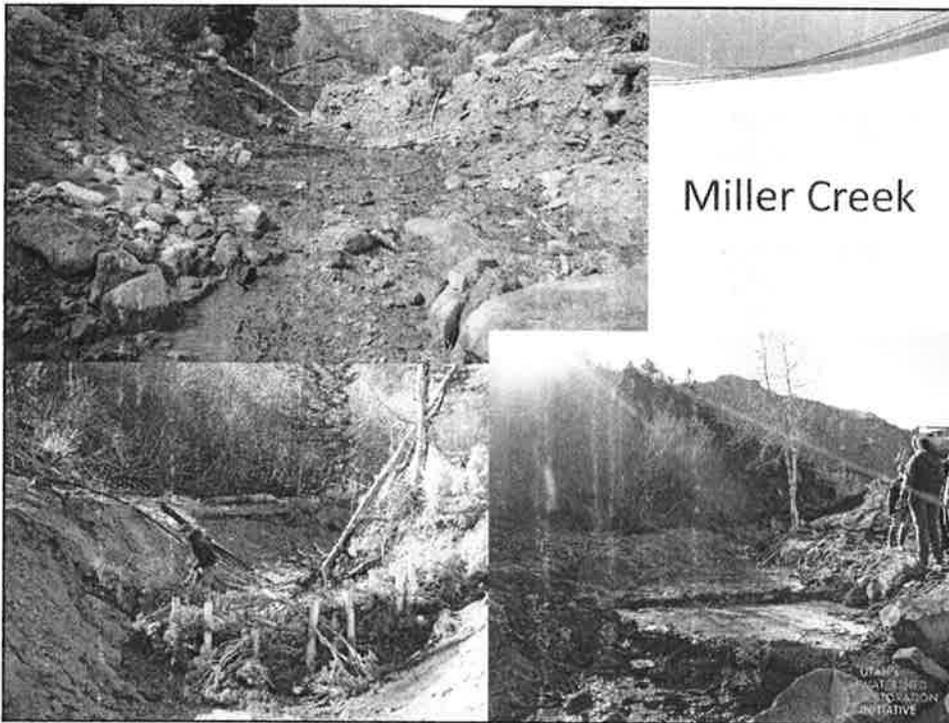
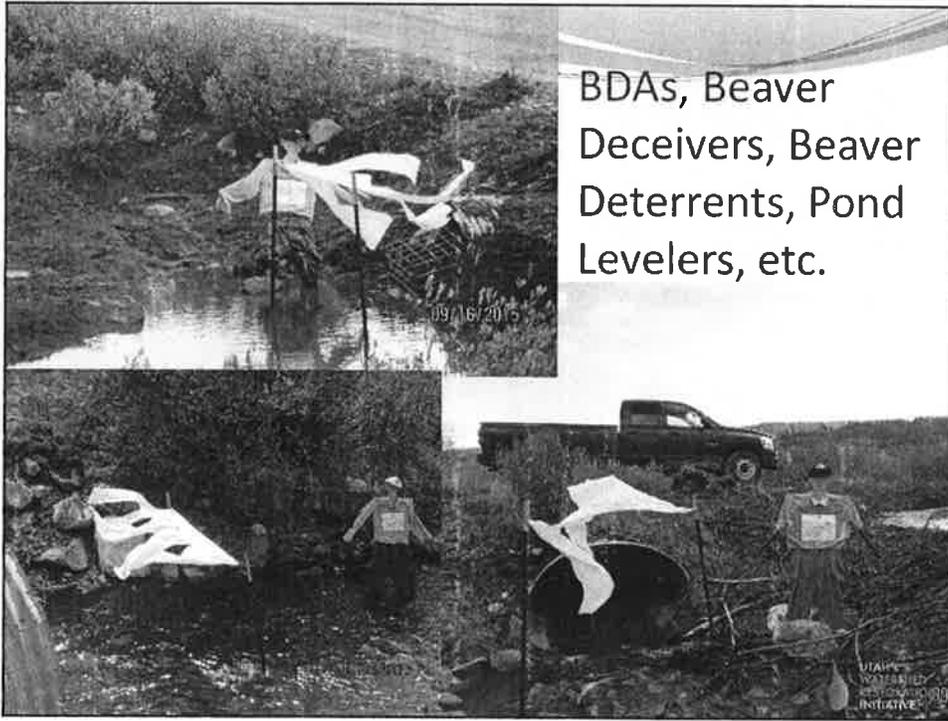




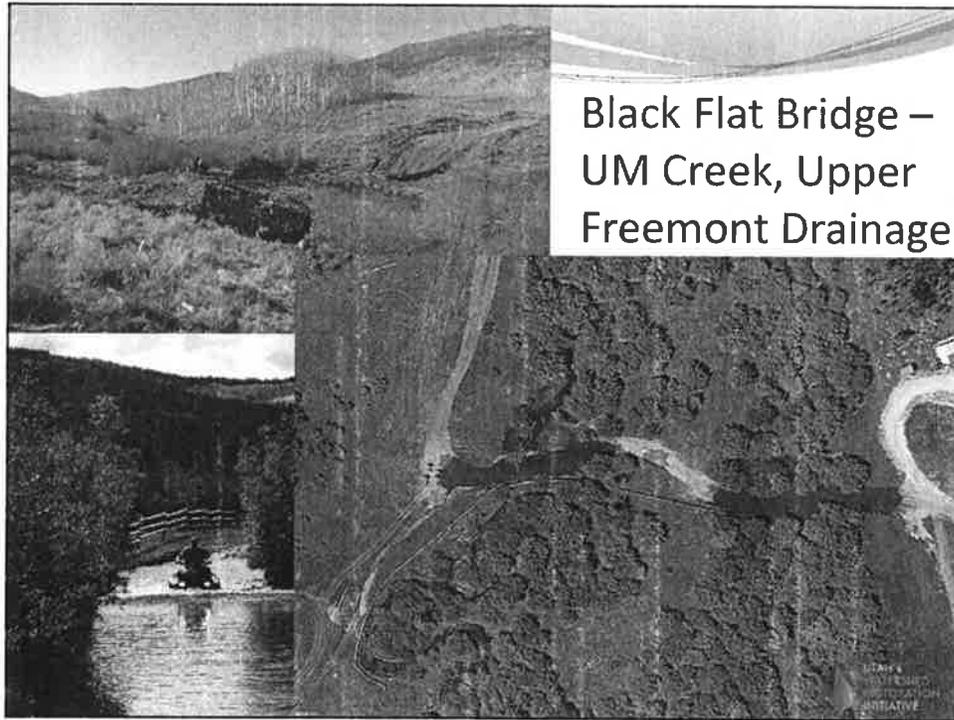
BDA's, Beaver
Deceivers, Beaver
Deterrents, Pond
Levelers, etc.



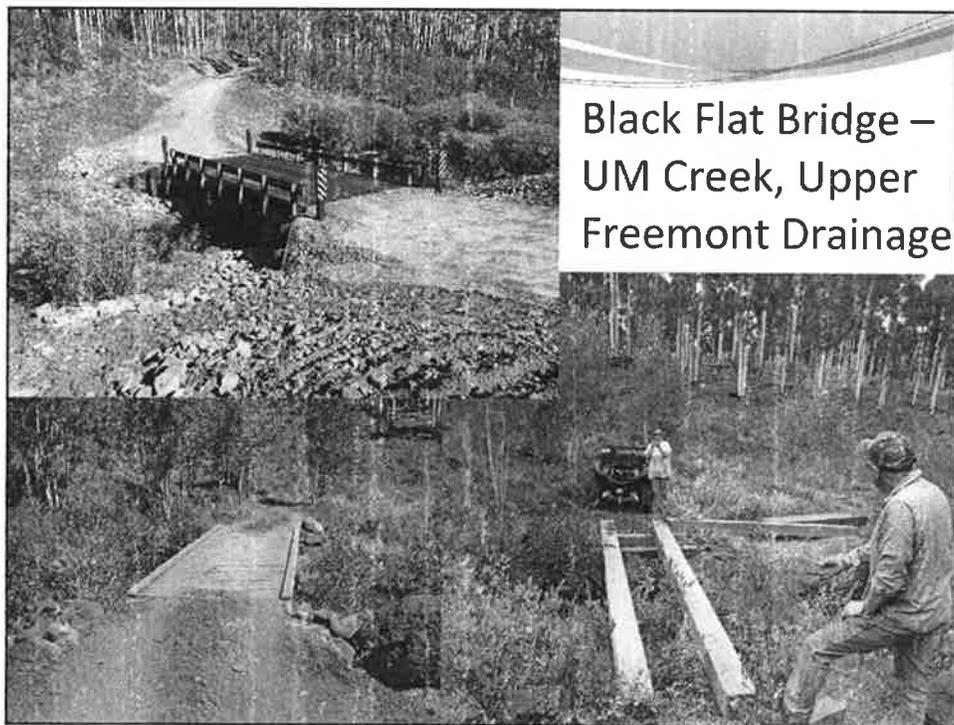
BDA's, Beaver
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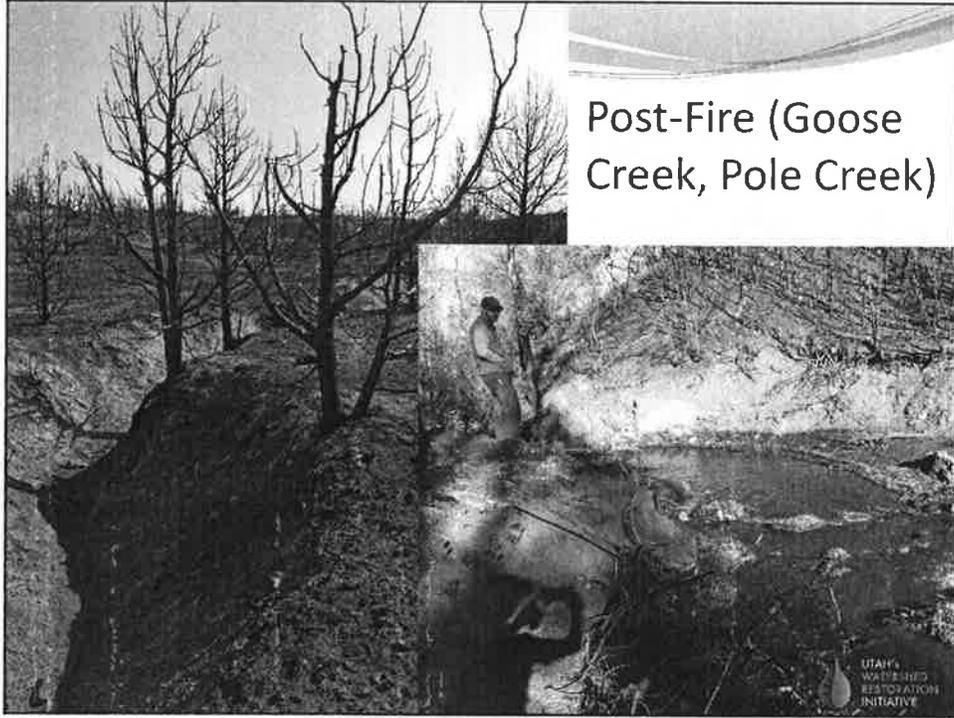




Black Flat Bridge –
UM Creek, Upper
Freemont Drainage



Black Flat Bridge –
UM Creek, Upper
Freemont Drainage



Research

- Megafire impacts on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and management interventions to protect wildlife habitat and watershed hydrology
 - Ben Abbott, Sam StClair – BYU
- Monitoring Groundwater Response to Pinyon-Juniper Treatments - Year 4
 - Hugh Hurlow – DNR - UGS



FY 21 WRI Riparian/Stream Proposals

- 37 Project Proposals for FY 21
- \$10.3 million in funding requests
 - 20 of these proposals include BDA construction
 - Internal BDA construction capacity limited
 - Very few External BDA construction contractors
 - Opportunity for new contractors
 - Does not include WRI – water development proposals due after Legislative session ends



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

Responsibilities

- Delivering on-the-ground assistance to private landowners
- Projects benefit
 - Migratory bird species
 - Threatened, endangered or candidate conservation
 - Species proposed for listing
 - Other declining or imperiled species

Habitat types

- Upland
 - Sagebrush communities
 - CRP
- Wetland
- Stream and Riparian



Stream/Riparian

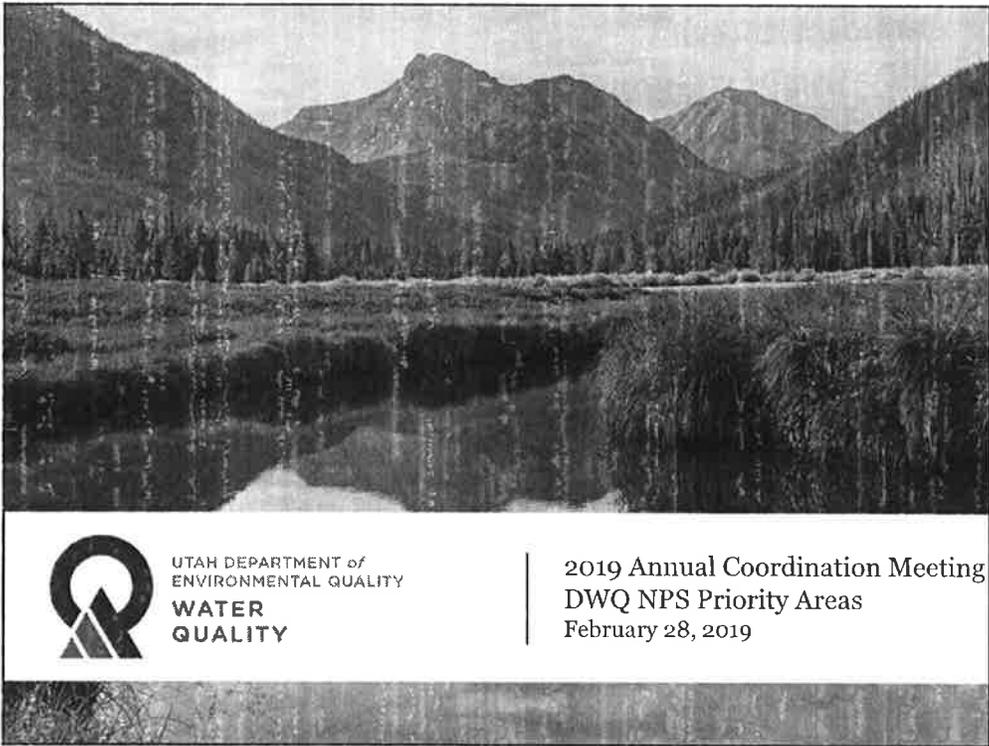


Invasive Species



Contacts

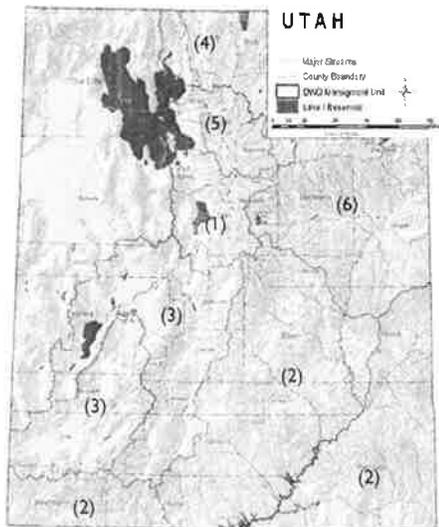
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UTAH DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WATER QUALITY

2019 Annual Coordination Meeting
DWQ NPS Priority Areas
February 28, 2019

Watershed Management Unit Funding Cycle



Watershed	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
(1) Jordan Utah lake							
(2) Colorado River							
(3) Sevier, Cedar-Beaver							
(4) Bear River							
(5) Weber River							
(6) Uinta Basin							



Current Priority Areas

Weber River Watershed

- Projected completion date: September 2021
- Remaining Work
 - 15 open projects
 - \$302,300 in 319 Funds
 - \$208,134 in state NPS funding
- Monthly monitoring runs are conducted from May- Sep
 - Monthly runs parameters collected: flow, temperature, pH, DO, specific conductivity, total suspended solids, total P and total N.
 - Hobo loggers are deployed from May- Sep taking hourly temperature readings.
 - Yearly photo monitoring points
 - MIM conducted ever 3 years. Conducted in 2018
 - Fish survey done every 5 years by UDWR. Conducted in 2017
- Watershed Coordinator Vacancy
 - We are currently hiring for this position



Current Priority Areas

San Pitch Watershed

- Accomplishments
 - Over 10 miles of the San Pitch River has now been restored
 - Bank sloping
 - Vegetative restoration
 - Beaver management plan has been developed
 - Thousands of acres converted from flood to sprinkler irrigation
- Remaining implementation work:
 - Watershed coordinator currently working with 8 different landowners
 - Fencing (12,700)
 - Riparian cover (15.4 acres)
 - Riparian stabilization (7787 linear feet)
 - Prescribed grazing (22 acres)
 - Obstruction removal (300 yds)
 - Stream Crossing (1)
- Projects work scheduled to be completed December 2023



Current Priority Areas

Lower Spanish Fork River

- Watershed Plan Completed for Lower Spanish Fork River
- Partners Include:
 - Local Conservation District
 - UDAF
 - NRCS
 - DWQ
- Project Summary
 - 2.5 miles of stream bank stabilization
 - Riparian improvements
 - Irrigation Improvements
- Estimated completion Fall of 2023



Current Priority Areas

Upper Sevier Watershed

- Location of two NWQI Watersheds
- \$931,252 EQIP funding for Projects
- Project Summary
 - 40,000 feet of stream bank/fencing
 - 4300 acres of irrigation improvements
 - 1682 acres of upland treatments
 - Currently working with 10 different landowners
- Partners:
 - Local Conservation District
 - UDWR
 - NRCS
 - DWQ
- Estimated completion Fall of 2025



Current Priority Areas

Pinto Creek

- Project implementation to date
 - Large scale P/J mastication
 - .5 miles of stream bank stabilization
 - 26,000 feet of fencing
 - Flood to sprinkler conversion
- Additional project work
 - Grazing management
 - Stream bank stabilization/re-vegetation
 - Beaver dam analogue structures
 - Pinion Juniper Removal
- Current Partners
 - Forest Service
 - County
 - Local Landowners
 - NRCS



Current Priority Areas

Logan River Watershed

- 2017 Targeted Basin
- Project accomplishments
 - 6 project already implemented, several in urban area.
 - Debris removal (concrete/cracked willows)
 - 1100 feet of streambank treated
 - Flood plain restoration
 - Thousands of riparian plantings
- Partners:
 - Local Conservation District
 - UDWR
 - NRCS
 - DWQ
- Estimated completion Fall of 2025



Future Priority Areas

Otter Creek Watershed

- Watershed Plan 95% completed
- Problems
 - E.coli
 - Excess phosphorous
 - pH
 - Temperature
- Pre-project monitoring has begun. Educational dinner scheduled for 2020 to discuss BDAs and their benefits.
- Project Description
 - Installation of various BDAs
 - Most projects to occur on BLM for now
 - Currently soliciting projects with private landowners
 - Project likely to gain steam in 2022 (targeted basin)
- Current Partners
 - Local Conservation District
 - Fish and Wildlife Service
 - BLM
 - DWQ



Future Priority Areas

Fremont River

- TMDL recently completed, in review process right now.
- Issues
 - E.coli
 - Macroinvertebrates
 - Temperature
 - pH
- Many of the issues located on Spring Creek.
 - AFOs
 - Cattle access to creeks/rivers
- District to hold BBQ to educate local landowners.
- Current Partners
 - Local Conservation District
- Needs
 - Landowner participation
 - Partner participation
 - Additional Funding



Future Priority Areas

Newton/Clarkston Creek

- Watershed plan currently being developed

- Issues
 - Excess Phosphorous
 - Low Dissolved Oxygen
 - High Temperature

- Project Description
 - Cover Crops
 - Conservation Tillage
 - AFOs

- Current Partners
 - Local Conservation District
 - Local Landowners
 - UDAF
 - NRCS



NPS Grant Application Process

February 1st– DWQ began accepting nonpoint source grant applications

April 10th- Application deadline

May 22nd- Grant recipients will be announced

July 1st- State NPS funding is available for contracting

Spring of 2021- Section 319 funding is available



Changes to Application Process in 2020

- The grant application has been updated with a couple new requirements.
- There is now a separate application for I&E projects.
- The ranking criteria has been modified.
- A new form may be required prior to contracting.



Change is hard
at first, messy
in the middle,
and gorgeous at
the end.
Robin Sharma



QUESTIONS???

